

## CLAIMS

I claim

1. An adapter for removably coupling a patient breathing circuit to a ventilator, said adapter comprising:

an inhalation conduit having a first end for coupling said adapter to the ventilator and a second end for coupling said adapter to the patient breathing  
5 circuit;

an exhalation conduit having a first end for coupling said adapter to the patient breathing circuit and a discharge conduit, said discharge conduit transversely oriented to said inhalation conduit;

an exhaust port communicating with said discharge conduit for  
10 releasing breathed gas from same;

a valve selectively opening and closing said discharge conduit to release gas from same; and

a base comprising means for releasably coupling said adapter to the ventilator.

2. The adapter of claim 1, further comprising:

a pressure port for coupling a pressure monitor tube to said adapter.

3. The adapter of claim 1 wherein said means for releasably coupling said adapter to the ventilator comprises:

a lip and a keyhole on said base, wherein said lip is received by a ledge on the ventilator and said keyhole is received by a slot in the ventilator and  
5 wherein upon insertion of said keyhole into said slot, a spring biased bar in the ventilator is cammed open and subsequently biased closed through said keyhole to removably couple said adapter to the ventilator.

4. The adapter of claim 1, wherein said valve is electro-mechancially actuated.

5. The adapter of claim 1, wherein said valve comprises a diaphragm which selectively forms a seal with a valve seat on said base.

6. The adapter of claim 1, wherein said valve is solenoid powered.

7. The adapter of claim 1, further comprising:

a medicine delivery conduit communicating with said inhalation conduit intermediate its first and second ends, said medicine delivery conduit for receiving medicine and providing same to said inhalation conduit.

8. The adapter of claim 7, wherein said medicine delivery conduit is adapted to support a medicine delivery device in a vertical orientation.

9. The adapter of claim 8, wherein said medicine delivery device is a nebulizer.

10. The adapter of claim 1, wherein said inhalation conduit and said exhalation conduit are coaxial.

11. An adapter for removably coupling a patient breathing circuit to a ventilator, said adapter comprising:

an inhalation conduit having a first end for coupling said adapter to the ventilator and a second end for coupling said adapter to the patient breathing  
5 circuit;

an exhalation conduit having a first end for coupling said adapter to the patient breathing circuit and a discharge conduit, said discharge conduit transversely oriented to said inhalation conduit;

a valve selectively opening and closing said discharge conduit to  
10 release breathed gas from same;

an exhaust port through which breathed gas from said discharge conduit is released; and

a base for coupling said adapter to said ventilator, said base comprising a lip and a keyhole, wherein said lip is received by a ledge on the  
15 ventilator and said keyhole is received by a slot in the ventilator, and wherein upon insertion of said keyhole into said slot, a spring-biased bar in the ventilator is cammed open and subsequently biased closed through said keyhole to removably couple said adapter to the ventilator.

12. The adapter of claim 11, wherein said valve comprises a diaphragm which selectively forms a seal with a valve seat on said base.

13. The adapter of claim 12, wherein said valve is solenoid powered.

14. The adapter of claim 11, further comprising:

a pressure port for coupling a pressure monitor tube to said adapter.

15. The adapter of claim 11, further comprising:

a medicine delivery conduit communicating with said inhalation conduit intermediate its first and second ends, said medicine delivery conduit for receiving medicine and providing same to said inhalation conduit.

16. An adapter for removably coupling a patient breathing circuit to a ventilator, said adapter comprising:

an inhalation conduit having a first end for coupling said adapter to the ventilator and a second end for coupling said adapter to the patient breathing circuit;

an exhalation conduit having a first end for coupling said adapter to the patient breathing circuit and a discharge conduit, said discharge conduit transversely oriented to said inhalation conduit;

a pressure port for coupling a pressure monitor tube to said adapter;

a valve selectively opening and closing said discharge conduit to release breathed gas from same;

an exhaust port through which breathed gas from said discharge conduit is released; and

a base comprising means for releasably coupling said adapter to the ventilator.

17. The adapter of claim 16, wherein said valve comprises a diaphragm which selectively forms a seal with a valve seat on said base.

18. An adapter for removably coupling a patient breathing circuit to a ventilator, said adapter comprising:

an inhalation conduit having a first end for coupling said adapter to the ventilator and a second end for coupling said adapter to the patient breathing circuit;

an exhalation conduit having a first end for coupling said adapter to the patient breathing circuit and a discharge conduit, said discharge conduit transversely oriented to said inhalation conduit, wherein said inhalation and exhalation conduits are coaxial;

a medicine delivery conduit communicating with said inhalation conduit intermediate its first and second ends, said medicine delivery conduit for receiving medicine and providing same to said inhalation conduit;

a pressure port for removably coupling a pressure monitor tube to said adapter;

a electro-mechanically actuated valve selectively opening and closing said discharge conduit to release breathed gas from same;

an exhaust port through which breathed gas from said discharge is released; and

a base for coupling said adapter to said ventilator, said base comprising a lip and a keyhole, wherein said lip is received by a ledge on the ventilator and said keyhole is received by a slot in the ventilator and wherein upon insertion of said keyhole into said slot, a spring-biased bar in the ventilator is cammed open and subsequently biased close through said keyhole to removably couple said adapter to the ventilator.